

EPA-PNL-396

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To Phil North

cc

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Subject Socioeconomic Trends

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## Pebble Update

[www.Pebblepartnership.com](http://www.Pebblepartnership.com)

### Trends

The state of Alaska documents and publishes *Alaska Economic Trends*, a monthly digest covering key industries and a wide range of topics that review and report statewide statistics in areas such as employment, migratory populations, fish harvesting, health care, education and more.

For a historical overview of economic trends throughout the state, [link here](#).

The Pebble Environmental Baseline Document (EBD) is a characterization of the physical, biological and socioeconomic environments in the Bristol Bay and Cook Inlet drainages. Research was conducted between 2004 and 2008 by independent, third-party consultants. To view technical summaries, as well as the full reports contained within the EBD's 53 chapters [link here](#).

### EBD Research Confirms Impacts of Decreasing Populations

Results from the Pebble Environmental Baseline Document (EBD) socioeconomic studies in southwest Alaska verify dwindling economic trends that dramatically impact village life.

Decreasing populations, school closures and a high cost of living are taking a toll on communities. The southwest Alaska community of Pedro Bay recently closed its school because it fell below the student minimum set by the state of Alaska. Another five schools are on a watch list in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. [Read more...](#)

The *Alaska Dispatch* recently reported on the impact a school closure has on rural Alaska communities. [Read more...](#)

### High Unemployment a Consistent Factor in Southwest Alaska

Validating what has long been reported by government agencies, the Pebble Environmental Baseline Document (EBD) verifies that a lack of year-round employment continues to challenge southwest Alaska communities.

While three main industries drive the area economy, commercial fishing/seafood processing, tourism and government, only government provides significant year-round employment opportunities. The report also shows that while fishing remains an important industry to the region economically and culturally, only 16 percent of fishing industry wages are attributed to residents. [Read more...](#)

**Handy links:**

[Alaska Resource Development Council](#)  
[Alaska Miners Association](#)  
[United States Geological Survey](#)  
[Alaska Department of Natural Resources](#)  
[Alaska Division of Mining, Land and Water](#)  
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